Outline of the Proposed Thesis Entitled

The Voices of the Immigrants in the Select Novels of Monica Ali, Badami Anita Rau and Shaila Abdulla: A Comparative Study.

Submitted to the

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Doctor of Philosophy in English

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1. Introduction

The word 'diaspora' carries several meanings for multiple communities. The term 'diaspora' which is etymologically came from the Greek composite verb 'dia'-and 'speirein', literally meaning 'to scatter', 'to spread' or 'to disperse'. It was originally used to refer to the dispersion of Jews after the Babylonian exile in 586 BC and to the labelled of Jews communities scattered in exile outside Palestine. In current parlance, however, the word is used to illustrate any group of people who are so dispersed. (Jayaram, 16). Post colonialism is often referred to as 'the theory of migrancy', since it deals with the major themes of migration, immigration and displacement. Therefore, diasporic situation can be used as a metaphor which presents physical displacement, cultural confrontation, rootlessness and a socio-psychological identity question.

The present work is an attempt to explore the consequences of postcolonism and the experiences of the immigrants through the particular works of the women writes. The study will focus on the selected novels of Monica Ali's *Brick Lane* (2003), Anita Rau Badami's *The Hero's Walk* (2002) and Shaila Abdulla's *Saffron Dreames* (2009). These works are charged with heart-touching illustration of life in the diasporic literature like the cross cultural conflicts, trauma, isolation, aspiration, dilemmas and assimilation of the Indian immigrants. The narrative world of writer explained the various losses undergone and pangs experienced by the immigrants. Inspite of this, writers portrays the positive experience of the immigrants, interactions with the westerns world of living. The efforts of several generations of immigrant writers writing in English have turned as international success, many women writers, who are more realistic in their

approach, have marked their recognition especially with the winning of literary awards.

Monika Ali, a writer of Bangladeshi diaspora. Monika Ali is born in Bangladesh and settled in the UK. The novel *Brick Lane* narrates the life of an immigrant Nazneen, who goes to live at Tower Hamlets, in Brick Lane area of London. Nazneen's husband, Chanu, is almost double to her age. Nazneen feels alien in the new environment and longs for her homeland. She feels nostalgia through the letters of her sister Hasina, living in Bangladesh. Karim enters into Nazneen's life as he helps her in her work. Later on Chanu decides to go back to Dhaka alone and Nazneen lives in London with her two daughters. The migration of the protagonist Nazneen is not voluntary as she has to go with her husband. Chanu and some other characters have migrated to London willingly for better prospects. Ali depicts the lives of people in both Bangladesh and London. Bangladeshi immigrants help other people from the homeland but they feel marginalized in the white dominated London. Nazneen and Karim try to get adjusted in an alien culture but Chanu continuously longs for homeland, Dhaka. Ali has given voice to the issues of women as subaltern under patriarchy in homeland as well as in hostland.

Anita Rau Badami, a writer of Indian diaspora and settled in Canada. Her novel provides the details of Indian family life, shown how cultural gap encountered by the immigrants who settle in the west. *The Hero's Walk* was selected for CBC Canada Reads Competition. The novel describes the problems in the family life and at last how peace evolved in the family.

In *The Hero's Walk* Anita Rau Badami portrays Indian society through life in a small fictitious town Toturpuram near Madras. It is about

Sripathi Rao, his wife Nirmala, and their families. Sripathi Rao is a middle class press reporter, struggling to fulfill his social, economic and family obligations. He is fifty seven, living with his widow mother Ammayya, unmarried sister Putti, wife Nirmala, son Arun. His daughter Maya goes to Canada, marries Alan, and both die in an accident leaving their eight years old daughter Nandana as an orphan. The novel depicts Indian society, climate of Toturpuram, celebration of festivals, issues of women, political condition, casteism and issue of education, beliefs in astrology, religious and social rituals in Indian culture and traditional issue of settlement of Nandana a foreigner in Indian tradition.

Shaila Abdullah is an award-winning Pakistani-American author Shaila Abdullah's debut novel, *Saffron Dreams* (2009), explores the life of a young Pakistani American woman in the aftermath of 9/11 and the loss of her husband. Socio-cultural challenges of being a single parent to an autistic child, and the emotional trauma of losing her husband in a place where she is treated as the other is portrayed through Arissa, the main protagonist. Her journey from being a frightened, recently widowed young woman to an independent working woman in America displays her own strength as an individual. At the same time, the novel examines the importance of socio-cultural networks of family, friends and communities that assist Pakistani American women in their passage to becoming American by making coalition between two lands and cultures.

The research is carried out to study various aspects of diaspora in the selected novels. It has relevance with literary studies, and interdisciplinary studies. Study of society, polity, economy, culture and religion of different countries depicted in the novels create wider scope to understand

international relations, regional issues, economy, foreign policy, issues of refugees and turbulence at global level.

2. Research Methodology

The research will use the descriptive and analytical method for the proposed study. The researcher would follow the MLA style of documentation. Even the interviews of the writers and their literary work will be used in the process of this work. The methodology will mostly include the library work that can be specified as below:-

- The study of available original works of the authors as primary source.
- Analytical study of selected novels of Monica Ali, Badami Anita Rau and Shaila Abdulla.
- Analytical study of all critical works on Monica Ali, Badami Anita Rau and Shaila Abdulla.
- It also takes into account broad streams like history, Diaspora, psychology, religion and culture.
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3. Hypothesis:

The present work is an attempt to show the characteristics of diasporic fiction, which depicts longing, fate of immigrants and growing distance day by day from the reality of their country. Human migration is the movement as old as existence of human being on the earth. Alienation, identity, homelessness, issues related to race and gender, memory and representation of memory etc. emerge as major thematic concerns of diaspora. The diasporic writings are unforgettable testimonials of the migrants which come

out through their experiances of attachment to homeland, problems of migration and attempts for adaptation in hostland.

4. The Objective of the Study

The objectives of the research project are as follows:

- To make a study of various aspects of diaspora as reflected in a novel of selected women novelists.
- To highlight the comparison and contrasts of the writers attitudes as reflected through different characters, towards the host nation and the country of origin.
- To understand the narration of various issues such as alienation, marginalization, cultural conflicts, social disparity, racism, ethnicity, gender sensitivity, etc. in the novels.
- To understand how the selected writers have explored subjectivity in connection with an identity.
- To explore the experiences of racism and the attitudes of the Europeans towards Asian immigrants.
- To point out the specific challenges facing by immigrant women, it also point out various issues of women as subaltern under patriarchy in homeland as well as in hostland.
- Try to analyze the socio-cultural conflicts, emotional trauma, and changed atmosphere towards the migrants in the era of globalization.

5. Tentative Chapter Scheme

Chapter I: Introduction

The present chapter tries to bring out a chronological survey of diasporic literature and its prominent writers. It will also provide a brief information about the selected writers life and works. This chapter also tries to highlights the major aspects of post colonism.

Chapter II: *Brick Lane:* Struggle for Identity.

This chapter tries to provide the detail information of Monica Ali's works. It also explores the theoretical relation among the aspects of diaspora like lonliness, sense of alienation and dislocation of cultures in the novel *Brick Lane*.

Chapter III: *The Hero's walk:* Cultural Clashes.

The chpter will explore Badami Anita Rau works in details. It also tries to analyze thematical dimention in her work *The Hero's walk.*

Chapter IV: *Saffron Dreams*: Racial Discrimanation.

This chapter will try to show how Shaila Abdulla's writing presents the human life aspects like cultural dislocation and changing identities in their respective living. It also tries to interpret the experiences of the characters depicted in the novel in relation with cultural dislocation, their changing identities and assimilation in the alien land.

Chapter V: A comparative study.

This chapter will make the comparison of three works under the term of diaspora. It also tries to compare the various aspects, dimensions and voices of the immigrants in the selected works.

Chapter VI: Conclusion

This chapter will record the conclusion derived from the study.

6. The Relevance and Significance of the Study:

The study will help us to show how the selected writers have been portrayed the dilemma of immigrants and presents their dilemma as their difficulties. The diasporic experiences essentially underline the partial culture brought by the immigrant to the new land and resultant clashes of culture they suffer from. The novels under study reflect the issues of diaspora as faced by different characters in different hostlands of the immigrants.

The characters undergo this dilemma, their problems are different. Apart from culture, they successfully portrayed the human psyche of the various characters, with themes like marriage, love, home, family, career, etc. They wrote with a flawless glide of expressions focuses on the clashing ideologies of two cultures where the immigrant is seldom free from the state of embarrassment. Thus, the aim of this study is to give a voice to immigrants and their families in order to public opinion as well as governmental and non-governmental policies and strategies at the global level.

7. Bibliography.

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